



**Livestock and Seed Program
Audit, Review, and Compliance Branch
Quality System Audit Report**

AUDIT INFORMATION

Applicant Name:	Agricultural Services Certified Organic (ASCO)
Est. Number:	N/A
Physical Address:	142 Rodgers Road, Salinas CA 93907
Mailing Address:	PO Box 4871 Salinas CA 93912
Contact & Title:	Katherine Borchard, Director and Partner
E-mail Address:	ascorganic@aol.com
Phone Number:	831-449-6365
Auditor(s):	Steve Ross
Program:	USDA National Organic Program (NOP)
Audit Date(s):	February 27, 2006
Audit Identifier:	NP6017DDA
Action Required:	No
Audit Type:	Corrective Action Audit
Audit Objective:	To verify that corrective actions adequately address the non-compliances identified during the NOP Accreditation desk audit
Audit Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7 CFR Part 205, National Organic Program, Final Rule, dated December 21, 2000; Amended November 3, 2003
Audit Scope:	ASCO corrective actions submitted on February 6, 2006 and received by the auditor on February 21, 2006
Location(s) Audited:	Desk

ASCO submitted corrective actions for the accreditation desk audit and the letter from the NOP Accreditation Manager dated February 2, 2006. ASCO corrective action was a formal reply letter with supporting documentation. ASCO clarified requests from the NOP and has projected to do 6 Crops, 2 Livestock, 2 Wild Crop, and 6 Handling operations. ASCO also clarified the positions that the owners of the company hold, which is Marketing/Program Review as Richard Nutter; Certification Approvals/Program Management as Katherine Borchard; and Review/Site inspections as Gerry Willey.

FINDINGS

Corrective actions and supporting documentation submitted by Agricultural Services Certified Organic adequately addressed the two minor non-conformances.



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NP6017DDA.NC1 – Minor – Adequately Addressed - NOP 205.501(a)(6) requires the certification agent to conduct an annual performance evaluation of all persons who review applications, perform on-site inspections, ... make certification decisions... *The ASCO Quality Manual only identifies the inspectors as having annual performance evaluations conducted.* **Corrective Action:** ASCO has revised the Quality Manual to now include all positions that have NOP related responsibilities to have annual performance evaluations.

NP6017DDA.NC2 – Minor – Adequately Addressed - NOP 205.404(b)(3) requires the certification agent to issue a certificate which specifies ... categories of organic operation, including crops, wild crops, ... *The sample certificate submitted by ASCO lists “production” instead of “crops” for the category.* **Corrective Action:** ASCO has revised the certificate to now include Category of Organic Certification as either “Crop/Handle/Processor/Livestock/Wild Crop.”